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**Subject:** Letter to Secretary R. Zinke  
**Date:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 12:05:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [BFMO.Zinke Letter Antiquities Act.pdf](#)

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Dear Micah,

I wanted to share with you and some of the Department of Interior staff a letter that was sent to Secretary Zinke earlier this week (in hard copy) regarding the concerns here in Montana, specifically from Business for Montana's Outdoors, around the recent Executive Order signed by President Trump which encourages a re-evaluation of some of our nation's most treasured national monuments.

Attached please find our letter, which we hope will make it's way to Secretary Zinke. We uphold Mr. Zinke to the highest standards of Montana's values, as they were graciously and publicly offered to Montanans when he served as our sole Congressman.

Thank you for the consideration of the opinions of our 140 businesses, and the 3600 jobs that they represent in Montana. This issue is bigger than Montana, but we believe our role in voicing concern is as critical now, as ever.

Most Sincerely,

Marne

Marne Hayes  
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May 2, 2017

The Honorable Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the hundreds of Montana businesses that view our public lands as a critical business asset, we are writing to express our profound concern over President Trump's recent Executive Order to decrease or remove protections for national monuments in Montana and across the West.

The Antiquities Act has a history of preserving natural treasures for the benefit of all Americans, enacted and first used by the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. In Montana, our national monuments not only have a track record of protecting public lands for hunting and fishing but also helping to grow local economies.

A 2014 study by Headwaters Economics shows the economies of Blaine, Choteau, Fergus, and Phillips counties grew after the 2001 designation of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The increases in jobs, personal income, and per capita income experienced in Montana mirrors other Western counties with national monuments or other protected lands.

National monuments are part of a much larger industry fueled by public lands and recreation. The Outdoor Industry Association just unveiled a study showing that the outdoor recreation economy generates \$887 billion per year in economic activity and is responsible for 7.6 million jobs. Protected public lands and waters are the backbone of this economy. Creating uncertainty over the future of national monuments will hurt those gateway communities and businesses that rely on these crucial public lands.

Secretary Zinke, in January, we asked that you consider signing a pledge to rededicate yourself to Montana's outdoor values as you joined the Trump Administration. We continue to ask that you remember the place you came from: a state where nearly one third of our acreage is designated as public land for the benefit of our businesses, visitors, families and generations to come. Please consider that your neighbors in Montana and the American people overwhelmingly oppose efforts to roll back protections for the parks, monuments and other public lands and waters they love.

We need not remind you that revoking Teddy Roosevelt's conservation legacy is a highly controversial proposal. No previous administration has ever attempted to revoke a predecessor's monument designation, even where some initial public disagreement over the designation existed. In fact, Administrative action to remove protections for sites protected under the Antiquities Act are widely considered illegal. You are uniquely suited to stand up for a long and bipartisan tradition of protecting national monuments - to stand on the right side of history.

Given your experience as a fifth-generation Montanan, we encourage you to remember the Montana way of leaving this place better than we found it for all who come after us.

Sincerely,

Marne Hayes

Executive Director

Business for Montana's Outdoors

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Department of the Interior  
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Washington DC 20240

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marne Hayes".

Marne Hayes  
Executive Director  
Business for Montana's Outdoors